



STATE OF MICHIGAN
TERRI LYNN LAND, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

January 24, 2008

Dear Driver Education Providers and Instructors:

I am writing to inform you of important changes to Michigan's process of issuing driver's licenses and personal identification cards, which took effect January 22, 2008. The Michigan Department of State now requires that all applicants for original driver's licenses and personal identification cards provide proof of permanent legal presence in the United States. Strengthening the Department's procedure for issuing identification has been a longstanding objective of Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land. We are now able to move forward as a result of a recent Michigan Attorney General opinion, which prohibits the Department of State from issuing driver's licenses to individuals who are not permanent, legal residents of Michigan.

Enclosed is a document that summarizes the new requirements for an original driver's license or personal identification card. Essentially, applicants must show evidence of four things:

1. Social security number (SSN) or ineligibility for a SSN
2. Permanent legal presence in the United States
3. Identity (legal name and date of birth)
4. Michigan residency

Note that these new requirements apply to individuals applying for a Level 1 Graduated Driver's License (GDL), as well as GDL level 2 applicants. For applicants under the age of 18, we expect the primary changes will include the need to present proof of SSN and Michigan residency. Note that two documents are required to prove residency; residency documents in a family member's name may be used if the family relationship can be established by other forms of documented proof. We expect that the parent or guardian signing the student's driver's license application can provide the necessary proof of residency for their child.

As you are the primary interface between driver education students from the time they are issued a driver education certificate to the time they go to a Secretary of State branch office to apply for their Michigan driver's license, please assist us by educating your students on these new requirements.

Revisions to all affected printed materials are underway, and the Department's Web site is also being updated. For additional information, please visit our Web site at www.michigan.gov/sos, or call our Information Center at 888-SOS-MICH with any questions you may have.

Thank you for your assistance in this important initiative to bolster the security of identity documents issued in the State of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Anne Corgan, Director
Legal and Regulatory Services Administration

Enclosure